

The Face of Global Trade:

Supreme Corq, LLC

Many people in the Puget Sound region are aware that Washington State is one of the world's leading producers of wine and wine grapes. But did you know that the state is also home to the world's leading manufacturer of synthetic closures for the wine and distilled spirits industry? Indeed, Supreme Corq, LLC of Kent is widely known in wine circles for its innovative work in plastics technology, which has led to the creation of seals for wine that literally eliminate the problems of cork taint sometimes associated with corks made from trees.

Chances are the bottle of wine you picked up for dinner tonight is sealed with a plastic closure manufactured by Supreme Corq.

You might wonder if the taste of the wine is at all affected by the use of plastic over traditional corks. Supreme Corq set out to answer that question by partnering with the University of Washington's Washington Technology Center in a joint research project. The results of the research overwhelmingly show that Supreme Corq seals do not affect the taste of wine at all.

International Success

So why is it important for the Puget Sound region to be competitive in the global economy and where

Name: Supreme Corq, LLC

Location: Kent, King County

International Sales: Significant portion of sales are international

Puget Sound Employees: 65

International Markets: Wine producing countries worldwide

Puget Sound Enabler: Ports of Seattle and Tacoma, Sea-Tac Airport, strong manufacturing base, regional concentration of wineries, talented labor

does Supreme Corq fit in? Well, according to Joyce Steers-Greget of Supreme Corq, the global marketplace provides a significant portion of the company's sales and business. In fact, the company couldn't be successful - or even survive - without the opportunity

to compete in a global environment, with established business in wine producing countries the world over. From Australia and South Africa in the southern hemisphere to France and the U.S.A. in the northern hemisphere, Supreme Corq and its 80-85 employees worldwide - about 65

of which are based in Puget Sound - looks to the world for continued growth in the future.

Why Puget Sound?

Steers-Greget asserts that the Puget Sound region provides a perfect backdrop for such a dynamic business. Close proximity to a world-class airport and seaport is vital to a business that depends on moving products overseas in an efficient and timely manner. And the region's talented labor pool, concentration of wineries and strong manufacturing infrastructure allows for unique collaboration on product development. Not to mention that the company is located less than a half hour from Seattle's downtown core.

So the next time you hear the words "international business" and "trade," think about Supreme Corq and the numerous other companies in the region that thrive on Puget Sound's unique place in the world. After all, no region in the United States is more tied to international business and the international economy than ours. Continued prosperity depends on enhanced understanding of our region's place in the global economy and an environment that supports the growth and competitiveness of innovative companies such as Supreme Corq.

